

**UPSOM Curriculum Committee  
Minutes of the 465th Meeting  
August 15, 2022**

Jason Rosenstock, MD, Chair  
Bill Yates, PhD, Vice-Chair

Business of the Curriculum Committee on August 15, 2022

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Vote Tally</b>	<b>Approved?</b>
Approval of Minutes from the August 1 meeting	10 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of Anesthesiology Clerkship Report	11 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of Clerkship Director Subcommittee Report	13 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of MS1 Student Report	12 Yes, 0 No	YES

**Voting Members Present:** A. Brown, MD; A. Heymann, MS3; A. Doshi, MD; A. Agarwal, MS2; B. Yates, PhD; B. O'Donnell, MD; C. Yanta, MD; E. Ufomata, MD, MS; J. Waxman, MD, PhD; J. Rosenstock, MD; L. Stumpp, MS2; L. Knepper, MD; L. Borghesi, PhD; M. DeFrances, MD, PhD; M. Schmidt, PhD; O. Torres, MD; P. Drain, PhD; P. Nelson, MS2; R. Schuchert, MD; R. Maier, MD, MA; S. Saloom, MS3; S. Herrle, MD, MS; S. Truschel, PhD; T. Bui, MD; T. Sigler, MS4

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** A. Thompson, MD, MHCPM; A. Gonzaga, MD, MS; B. Piraino, MD; C. Pettigrew, EdD; C. Lance-Jones, PhD; R. Buranosky, MD, MPH

**Invited Colleagues and Guests:** A. Shoukry, MD; A. Kohli, MD; B. Civi; B. Mclvor, MD, FASA; D. Klein, MD; E. Reis, MD; G. Perez, MD; G. Cooper, MD, PhD; G. Null, MA; H. Cheng, MD, MPH, MS; J. McGee, MD; J. Maier, PhD, MD; K. Scott, MA; K. Maietta, MPPM; L. Shutter, MD, FNCS, FCCM; L. Strattan, PhD; M. Best, MD, FASA, Maj, USAFR; M. Boisen, MD, FASE; M. Sergent, MPH; R. Van Deusen, MD, MS; R. Peterson, MD; S. Khan, PhD; T. Painter, MD; T. Duran, MD; T. Weigel, MS4

**All members and guests remotely participated.**

Dr. Rosenstock opened the meeting at 4:00pm.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 464<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Curriculum Committee was brought before the Curriculum Committee. The minutes were APPROVED.

**Standing Subcommittees**

CCES: Dr. Rosenstock reviewed recently approved policies on Policy Creation, NBME Content Exam Make-ups, Leaves of Absence, and General Absences. All are posted on the [OMED website](#).

CCQI: Mr. Null reported that the LCME Response was submitted on time. Grade turnaround results for clerkships and electives for the previous academic year were reviewed and clerkship grades continue be available within 28 days.

Social Medicine/DEI update: Dr. Bui reported on inaugural 'neighborhood visits' where all MS1 students toured Pittsburgh neighborhoods and learned about resources, access challenges, and local social determinants of health. Students and faculty were pleased with this unique opportunity to integrate into our community.

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**Content Change**

None.

**Anesthesiology Clerkship Report**

Dr. McIvor began with a review of structure, clinical sites, and number of students per rotation. Challenges discussed included capacity concerns, lack of OR staff, decrease in number of surgeries, and calendar, where holidays cut into the two-week experience within the Surgery clerkship.

The typical two-week schedule was presented. Clerkship assessments include clinical assessments and a 60-question multiple-choice exam. Grade distribution has kept grades in Honors and High Satisfactory levels. Students reported satisfaction with physiology and pharmacology topics, clinical opportunities, and faculty. Students also reported the perception that this clerkship is a 'shadowing' experience, competition with student nurse anesthetists for experiences, and too much simulation.

Strengths of clerkship included skills taught few other places, use of physiology and pharmacological principles, perioperative care, leveraging WISER simulation opportunities, and wealth of faculty. Traditionally 10% of PittMed graduates pursue anesthesiology. Areas of improvement may include unutilized educational time, lack of consistent interaction between student and preceptor, and unique and complex equipment to learn quickly. Plans include discussions with Curriculum Committee on student volume and pass/fail grading model, sharpening educational program objective links to content/assessment, investigating feedback mechanisms, updating exams, adding lectures on social determinants of health and economics of medicine, and writing simulations. Possible 'blue sky' scenarios were reviewed.

Allie Heymann gave the student perspective of the Anesthesiology clerkship and noted the outpatient surgery center experience as a strong one and urged more independent learning time from the simulation blocks. Dr. Schuchert reported on the structure and impact of Anesthesiology within the Surgery block.

Discussion included case preparation and sharing ORs with student nurse anesthetists.

A motion to approve the Anesthesiology Clerkship Report was brought before the Curriculum Committee. The report was APPROVED.

**Clerkship Directors Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Buranosky reported on the Clerkship Director Subcommittee work over the last year. A review of form and function of the Subcommittee was reviewed. Subcommittee projects included standardized grading process, evaluation feedback, communication, longitudinal curriculum, and learning objectives review.

Improvements made over the last year included adding course objective/EPO crosswalks on Navigator, loop closure for improvements made within each clerkship on Navigator, mid-clerkship feedback improvement processes, and initiating conversations on competency-based medical education and the use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs).

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Changes in the course evaluations have led to a standardized set of questions with room for clerkship-specific questioning. With the help of the Office of Learning Environment, questions were also made more specific to better gather and improve learning environment data. The creation of student advisory boards allowed clerkship directors to receive feedback directly from the students in a timely fashion. Learning environment alert process was defined and included review of possible learning environment issues as reported on student evaluations.

Other projects included natural language processing research study, removal of Honors cutoffs, direction to Shelf study materials, increase in social determinants of health throughout the clerkships, revisions of scoring rubrics for clarity, and faculty Upstander training.

Areas where work is still in progress include parking issues at Oakland sites, site selection processes, daily and mid-rotation feedback, evaluation transparency, and determining needed levels of assessment. GQ Clerkship data was shared with the Curriculum Committee, with improvements found in mid-clerkship feedback among others.

A motion to approve the Clerkship Director Subcommittee Report was brought before the Curriculum Committee. The Report was APPROVED.

**MS1 Student Report**

Medical students Lauren Stumpp, Peter Nelson, and Ashima Agarwal led the First Year Medical Student Report. Survey results were reviewed. Satisfaction with MS1 curriculum is high. Students found timing of required activities spread out through the day as a hardship. Sixty percent found time outside of school for hobbies and self-care. Student comments on linkage between basic science and clinical concepts and feedback from administration were also reviewed. MS1 students report anxiety for Step 1 exam. Students felt two lectures per day was the ideal format. Students prefer executive summaries and practice questions with feedback, and were split on lecture format preference. Students wish for a specific day to review exams. Student reliance on external resources increased as the first year progressed.

Students reported high-level takeaways from specific courses, including Evidence-based Medicine; Ethics, Leadership, and Professionalism; and Behavioral Medicine. Course data will be shared with course directors. Overall, students felt that the quality of the course depended on the quality of the small group facilitators and that quiz question vagueness and essays should be made more specific and come with feedback. Some content covered was found to use potentially stigmatizing language.

Discussions included linkage possibilities with external resources, Step 1 anxiety, and content integration from lectures.

A motion to approve the MS1 Student Report was brought before the Curriculum Committee. The Report was APPROVED. We also agreed that further discussion of the suggestions in the report should proceed at our next meeting.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting is September 19 at 4pm. Dr. Rosenstock closed the meeting at 5:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Gregory Null, recording secretary. Approved by Jason Rosenstock, MD